

lies there, sweet and patient, offering it all for 'Charlie,' begging the Lord to bring him back to the Church of his boyhood?"

"She suffers that way?" said the man. "God help me! She was the most innocent girl that ever lived, and you say that she has been suffering fifteen years for me? O, Bessie, my little sister!" said the poor fellow, tears rushing to his eyes.

The nun soothed him.

"Because she loves you so much she begged God not to let her die, but to increase her pains to expiate your faults and to bring you back to the Church."

"Faults!" he cried. "Sister, they are crimes! Crimes for twenty years. I have led a wild life. I have never thought of God except to curse His name, but now I feel as if my heart was broken. Can I see a priest?"

"Indeed you can," said the nun; "and oh, how you should thank this dear sister for this grace. Be comforted, and we will send a priest here at once. Let me place this Sacred Heart badge on your poor heart, and we will go home to our convent and all the Sisters will pray for you and we will write to Bessie."

He held the Sister's hand as she rose to go after a fervent prayer at his bedside. Then promising to return next day, the Sisters left. Before leaving the hospital they called up to telephone one of the fathers of a neighboring monastery, who promised to go at once to the patient.

Late that evening the telephone rang. The Father, who had gone to the hospital, wished to tell the Sisters that poor Charlie was a most sincere penitent. He had made his confession, received the sacraments, and was waiting serene and happy for death. He begged the father to ask the nuns to return. There was joy in heaven and earth that night for the sinner's return to God.

Early next morning the Sisters went to the hospital. Charlie was still living, but fast approaching the dark river whence those who embark never return. He smiled faintly, and laid his hand on the little badge of the Sacred Heart, and then whispered: "Tell Bessie it was her prayers. Tell her I felt she was praying for me, and tell her I die happy, a penitent Catholic."